

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07869 01 OF 02 151653Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 038195

P 151640Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0103

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07869

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE CHANCELLOR TO INFORM HIM OF THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE OPERATION TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE "MAYAGUEZ" AND ITS CREW. HE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION, NOTING THE FAVORABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT WHICH THIS DECISIVE U.S. RESPONSE WAS BOUND TO HAVE, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH THAILAND WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED.

2. IN REVIEWING THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN AND BERLIN, SCHMIDT NOTED THAT, DURING THEIR WORKING BREAKFAST, HE INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE PRIMARILY ECONOMIC MATTERS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO WHAT HE PLANNED TO SAY AT THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING. AMONG THE POINTS WHICH HE WOULD STRESS WERE THE DANGER THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD COULD SLIP INTO AN ECONOMIC CRISIS AS SEVERE AS THAT OF THE 1929-32 PERIOD UNLESS MORE CONCERTED ACTION WERE TAKEN, THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT EXPECT TO PLAY A CONTINUING WORLD LEADERSHIP ROLE IF IT WERE NOT ABLE SIGNIFICANTLY TO REDUCE ITS UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL BELOW 9 PERCENT, AND THAT AMERICAN BUSINESS AND BANKING PESSIMISM RADIATING FROM NEW YORK CITY IS HAVING A DELETERIOUS INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 07869 01 OF 02 151653Z

3. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO GIVE THE CHANCELLOR COPIES OF THE SECRETARY'S ST. LOUIS AND KANSAS CITY SPEECHES OF WHICH, HE OBSERVED, HE HAD SO FAR SEEN ONLY FRAGMENTARY EXCERPTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD READ THEM BOTH CAREFULLY OVER THE WEEKEND IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

4. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL WOULD BE MAKING THESE POINTS IN MORE DETAIL DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CURRENT BRIEF VISIT TO THE U.S. (UNDERTAKEN AT THE CHANCELLOR'S BEHEST), SCHMIDT ALSO WOULD ARGUE WITH THE SECRETARY THAT, IN HIS VIEW, AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS PORTUGAL AND SPAIN NEEDED MODIFICATION. TOO MUCH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PESSIMISM ABOUT PORTUGAL ONLY STRENGTHENED THE HANDS OF THE RADICALS IN THAT COUNTRY. THE GERMAN ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITIES THERE WAS APPARENTLY MORE HOPEFUL THAN THAT OF THE U.S., BUT IN ANY EVENT A MORE ACTIVE WESTERN ROLE WAS REQUIRED TO EXPLOIT WHATEVER POSSIBILITIES THERE WERE. AS FAR AS SPAIN WAS CONCERNED, HE FELT THAT THE AMERICAN POLICY OF REINFORCING A WANING FRANCO REGIME RAPIDLY APPROACHING ITS END FAILED ADEQUATELY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THOSE FORCES WHICH WOULD ACTUALLY SOON BE TAKING OVER POWER IN SPAIN.

5. REFERRING TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN GAUS (CHIEF OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST GERMANY) AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV YESTERDAY IN EAST BERLIN, THE CHANCELLOR NOTED THAT ABRASIMOV HAD SAID THAT, IF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY TO WEST BERLIN, THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE SOVIETS WITHOUT SOME RESPONSE ON THEIR PART. HE ASKED ME WHETHER THE SUBJECT HAD COME UP DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR LAST MONDAY (REPORTED IN USBERLIN TEL 924). I SAID IT HAD NOT, BUT THAT GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE GOING TO BERLIN HAD COME ONLY ON TUESDAY MORNING. I ADDED THAT, DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ABRASIMOV, I HAD, INTER ALIA, TAKEN UP THE TRAGIC DROWNING OF THE TURKISH CHILD IN THE SPREE (NOW SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 07869 01 OF 02 151653Z

THE SUBJECT OF AGITATED DISCUSSION IN THE GERMAN PRESS AND OF STRONG GERMAN OFFICIAL REACTION).

6. SCHMIDT THEN SAID HE WANTED TO RAISE, IN A VERY CONFIDENTIAL FASHION, A SUBJECT WHICH TROUBLED HIM A GREAT DEAL PERSONALLY. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WEST BERLIN POLICE DURING AND AFTER THE RECENT LORENZ KID-

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SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07869 02 OF 02 151653Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 151640Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0104

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07869

EXDIS

NAPING CASE, AND FOR THAT MATTER THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WEST BERLIN CITY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, HAD FALLEN FAR SHORT OF SATISFACTORY. HE NOTED THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES WERE FORMALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE CITY, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT TIME I WENT TO BERLIN I SHOULD BEGIN A DISCREET PROCESS OF INQUIRY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE POLICE THERE AND WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. OF THE SOME ONE THOUSAND ACTIVE TERRORISTS AND CLOSE SYMPATHISERS IN GERMANY, APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF WERE IN WEST BERLIN. SOMETHING OBVIOUSLY HAD TO BE DONE TO HEIGHTEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICE METHODS IN THAT CITY.

7. I REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL HOW ALLIED LIAISON WITH THE WEST BERLIN POLICE IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS OPERATES, NOTING THAT ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS THE POLICE CARRIED OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN LARGELY AUTONOMOUS FASHION. IT WAS NOT PRACTICAL TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK TWENTY YEARS OR MORE. WE WERE, HOWEVER, REVIEWING OUR PERFORMANCE AND THAT OF THE POLICE IN THE MATTER TO SEE HOW THEY COULD BE IMPROVED AND WHETHER THERE WERE WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD BE MORE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY HELPFUL. WE WERE AWARE THAT MODERN URBAN TERRORISM CONDUCTED BY RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED ANARCHISTS COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME WAY AS MORE CONVENTIONAL CRIMINALITY.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE CHANCELLOR HAS OBVIOUSLY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 07869 02 OF 02 151653Z

BEEN BUOYED UP BY RECENT ELECTORAL RESULTS IN NORTH
RHINE-WESTPHALIA AND THE SAARLAND, WITH THEIR IMPLIC-
ATIONS FOR THE DURABILITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE
1976 ELECTIONS, HE CONTINUES TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED
ABOUT WESTERN ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND WHAT HE CONSIDERS
TO BE THE WEAK PERFORMANCE OF THE ALL-IMPORTANT
AMERICAN ECONOMY. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE READY TO
DISPENSE SOME CONCRETE ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT, AS HE
DID DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. IT
CAN BE EXPECTED THIS WILL BE A MAJOR THEME OF ANY DIS-
CUSSION WHICH HE MAY HAVE IN BRUSSELS WITH THE PRESI-
DENT, AS WELL AS DURING THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH
THE SECRETARY IN BONN.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN07869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750171-0180
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaabpon.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US, (HILLENBRAND, MARTIN J), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006